

(No. 3.)

Circular.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 1st October, 1846.

SIR,—As the Act, 9th Vict., cap. XX., intituled, “*An Act for the better Establishment and Maintenance of Common Schools in Upper Canada.*” will shortly come into general operation, I feel it my duty to call the attention of the Council over which you have been selected to preside, to some of its provisions. You will perceive from the sixth and several following Sections of this Act, that to the Municipal Council of each District is confided the most important powers and functions in promoting the great work of Common School Education. I trust that no embarrassment will be experienced by any District Council, for want of powers, to carry into effect its wishes in respect to providing for the Educational wants of the population it represents. Indeed, the powers of each District Council, in this respect, are almost unlimited; as the powers of local Trustees of Schools are, also, considerably increased.

The accomplishment of the patriotic and benevolent objects contemplated by the Legislature, requires not only the appreciation of the importance of Common School instruction by the people at large, but the energetic and cordial co-operation of all parties intrusted with the execution of the Law. This common co-operation involves the necessity of a clear and full understanding of the duties and obligations of all parties concerned. To the Local Superintendants, Visitors, Trustees, and Teachers, I shall hereafter make communications. I desire, at the present time, most respectfully to lay before the newly-elected Warden and Councillors of each District some remarks explanatory of the views and intentions of this Department; and to submit to their consideration some subjects, in which the interest of Schools are entirely depending upon the proceedings of Municipal Councils.

The School Law is based upon the principles of our common Christianity, but of equality in respect to the several forms of Religion recognized by law, and of non-interference with the peculiarities of any. In the strictest harmony with this fundamental principle of the Law, I trust the Educational Department will ever act, as well as each Municipal Council. The influence of this principle should be paramount in every measure, in every appointment, and in every decision. A departure from it has prevented the establishment of systems and Schools, and broken them up when established. It is to be